



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 16, Number 2, August 2001

The *MAR Breakdown* is the journal of the Mid Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society. It is published three times a year; prior to the annual business meeting and prior to the Spring and Fall field meets.

### Subscriptions-

A complimentary copy is sent to each grotto in the MAR. For individuals it works this way: When you attend a field meet \$5 of your registration fee goes directly to the MAR to pay for three issues of this newsletter and other MAR projects. You may also subscribe by sending \$5 to the treasurer. The number of issues you have remaining immediately follows your name on the mailing label.

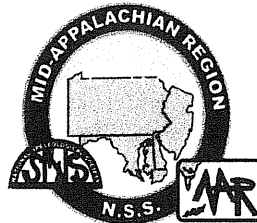
### Meetings and Meets-

The annual business meeting is held the last Saturday in February. Each spring and fall there is a field meet. Watch for dates.

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## MAR Fall Field Meet set for September 14-16, 2001 Sunday Morning PCC Meeting

## CAVES OF THE MAR 2002 CALENDAR



PCC  
Fund  
Raiser



### A calendar featuring caves of the MAR!

View a sample of the calendar at: [www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc](http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc)  
PCC representatives have samples for display at grotto meetings  
See page 7 for more information and to order a calendar  
**Support the PCC!**

## Inside

SPRING MAR WRITE UP	PAGE 2
PCC MEETING MINUTES	PAGE 3
J4 CAVE CLOSED	PAGE 5
FALL MAR FLYER	PAGE 6
MAR 2002 CALENDAR	PAGE 7

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# Spring 2001 MAR Field Meet Report

## by Jonathan Peterson

### Franklin County Grotto

Over the weekend of May 11-13 2001 Franklin County Grotto hosted the Spring 2001 MAR. The festivities were held at the Greencastle American Legion picnic grounds near Williamson Pa. Unlike the MAR that FCG hosted at this location four years ago the weather was very co-operative. Registration opened at 5 pm with a steady influx of cavers through most of the night and all day Saturday.

The social activities on Friday night were primarily non-organized things like standing around talking. There was one brief moment of WWF style entertainment by the father and son tag team of White and White. I'm sure in this day and age we could have sold tickets to see the pitch, catch, run and CRASH during the back yard fox tail game. The added contrast of blood red on White along with the broken nose would have raised the rating to something comparable to at least Friday night wrestling. (And my Mother thinks caving is dangerous.)

Saturday morning saw most cavers occupied by numerous tours into Franklin County caves as well as many self-guided trips around the Tri-state area. The Saturday night meal of chicken and several sides was catered by the American Legion. There was plenty of food for all and they even provided the leftovers for a group of cavers who decided they were having so much fun underground they would take a chance and be late for dinner. (Wow, I can remember several times I was having as much fun, only to return to no leftovers. I guess this was just another example of Pa. hospitality. Sunday morning breakfast was catered as a fundraiser by the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy. The PCC meeting was held at 10 Sunday morning.

All in all about 105 cavers attended and had a good experience at some time during the Spring 2001 MAR.

# Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order by President, Pat Minnick, at the Greencastle American Legion Picnic Grounds near Williamson, Pa. at 10:14am, Sunday, May 13, 2001.

The following officers were present.

President: Pat Minnick  
Secretary: Keith D. Wheeland  
Treasurer: George Bange

There were representatives from all member grottos except Bald Eagle, Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters, and South Jersey.

There were other individuals present including the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy.

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with and they were approved as published.

The treasurer, George Bange, reported a balance of \$2,339.13.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### PROJECT LIST:

**Baker Caverns**, Franklin Co., Pa. Pat Minnick reported that the cave is still for sale at the original asking price.

**Devil's Den**, Sussex County, N.J. - No report.

**Dragon Cave**, Berks County, Pa. - No report.

**Lime Sinks Cave**, Mifflin County, Pa. Seven Valleys recommended that this cave be removed from the list.

**Duffield Cave**, Franklin County, Pa. Ken Jones reported that the owner was interested in learning the best way of initiating a rescue callout should this be necessary. A committee was appointed to work on getting a satisfactory resolution. On the committee are Ken Jones, Pat

Minnick, Gordon Ley, and Steve Shawver. Penn Aqua Cave, Mifflin County, Pa. The Nittany Grotto and Seven Valleys will remove the temporary obstruction on June 16, 2001.

**Liability Insurance:** The Secretary has not yet checked on insurance.

**PCC Brochure:** The Brochure Committee chair, Karen Bange was absent, but George Bange presented the group with samples of the proposed brochure. It was a consensus that the brochure should be printed with colored photographs. After much discussion, a motion was made to authorize George Bange to print brochures. Passed. George will try to have brochures available at the Fall meeting of the PCC.

**Web Page:** David Fricke, the web master, reported that the page has been moved to the new NSS server, and updates are being made.

**Fund Raising T-Shirts:** Dean Snyder has PCC T-Shirts for sale at \$8 each.

**Conservancy License Plates:** George Bange read the rules for the Commonwealth of Pa. license plate program. The PCC would have to guarantee a minimum of 300 applications and the PCC would receive no funds from the sale. The PCC decided to drop this item from further consideration.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Watershed Grant Money:** Martin Harris reported that Pennsylvania and New Jersey have grant monies available to protect watersheds. He urged those present to get involved with their local water conservancy groups to make them aware of caves and their importance in the preservation of water resources.

**J-4:** Keith Wheeland reported that the owner of J-4 has asked that cavers not visit the cave. Suggestions were sought by Keith, and he urged members to spread the word about the closure. Nittany Grotto members will meet to discuss strategies, and will try to meet with the owner which is Graymont (PA).

**Pancake Breakfast:** A pancake breakfast was served on Sunday morning at the Spring MAR (immediately prior to this meeting). The PCC made a special point of thanking Alan Horn for his preparation for the breakfast and his generous donation of supplies for the breakfast. The amount collected for the PCC was \$243.

**Mount Rock Cave:** Keith Wheeland reported that he would be replacing the winter lock with the summer lock on his way home from the meeting.

**PCC Cave Calendar:** George Bange presented the idea of the PCC producing and selling a cave calendar for the year 2002. He will be sending samples to member grottos. The grottos should poll their members to determine whether there is sufficient interest in this project. Will cavers buy the calendar? Since time is critical, member grottos should inform George of the interest as soon as possible.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the PCC will be on Sunday September 16, 2001 at 10:00am at the site of the Fall MAR field meet at Columbia, NJ.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34am, May 13, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith D. Wheeland, Secy.

**Check out the MAR and PCC web sites  
for the latest information and upcoming events!**

**The MAR web page is at:**

**[www.caves.org/region/mar](http://www.caves.org/region/mar)**

**The PCC web page is at:**

**[www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc](http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc)**

**The MAR web page also has a listserver at:**

**[www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/MAR-NSS/](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/MAR-NSS/)**

## **J-4 Cave Closed**

Keith D. Wheeland

Sometime near the end of April this year, Mark Jancin called me with the news that there had been new no-trespassing signs installed on the property in Pleasant Gap on which J-4 Cave is located. Mark is very observant about such things and knows the area and the cave quite well. He called to ask whether I knew anything about this new development. I am supposed to know about such things, being the Guru of the Pennsylvania Cave Database. In this case, I knew nothing.

A few weeks earlier, the Nittany Grotto, through Kathryn Park our Safety and Rescue Chair, began planning for a joint cave-rescue training exercise with the Pleasant Gap Fire Company and the Centre County Sheriff's Office. Her plans were to have a mock rescue in J-4 Cave on June 2-3.

When I heard about the no-trespassing signs, I immediately contacted Kathryn to find out what she knew and whether she had the owner's permission to use the cave. She knew nothing about the signs, and she would have to check about the permission, since she didn't know whether anyone from the fire company had been in touch with the cave owners. She soon informed me that there had been no contact with the owners and that she would contact the owners to ask for permission. When she contacted the owners in her capacity as a trainer in safety and rescue, they gave her permission on the condition that cavers not enter the cave. She explained that the majority of the persons who were qualified to teach cave rescue training were indeed the cavers. The company then gave her the OK as long as the caving activities were restricted to the actual training. (The training exercise was a success with a total of 15-20 participants, including cavers from Nittany Grotto.)

It seems as if the company, Graymont (PA), Inc. equates all caving activities with organized cavers although a majority of participants on cave trips to J-4 are untrained flashlight cavers.

I convened a meeting of Nittany Grotto cavers to discuss what our reaction to the closing should be. I notified the organized cavers who attended the MAR Spring Meet on May 11-13. I notified the members of the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) at a meeting which was held that Sunday. In an unrelated matter, shortly after the closing, I got a call from our local outdoor supply store, Appalachian Outdoors, asking whether I had maps of J-4. First I explained that we don't give out maps to un-organized cavers, then I explained that the property was recently posted. I suggested that they explain to their customers that the wishes of the cave owner be respected.

I have tried to contact the owner by voice mail without any response. I have since sent a letter in my capacity as Secretary of the PCC asking for a meeting to discuss the cave.

If and when we are able to meet with the owner, we plan to be open and truthful. The owners are aware of the rescues in the cave, and are aware of the Pennsylvania Landowner Liability Act. They are not aware of the difference between organized and "dis-organized" cavers, nor of the sheer numbers of visitors to the cave.

If we have any more news about the cave, we will certainly make it available.

I want to thank all of you who took time to offer suggestions on how we should react to this closing of yet another cave.

I leave you with this one request, please respect the owner's wishes, and stay away from the cave.

# Fall 2001 MAR

September 14, 15, 16, 2001

Hosted by the  
**CENTRAL NEW JERSEY GROTTO**

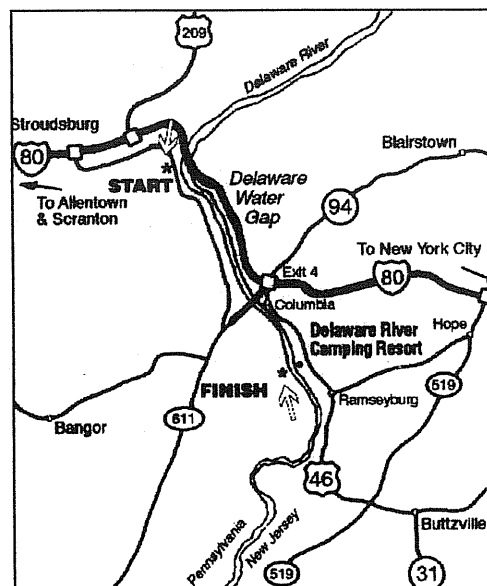
Located at the  
**Delaware River Family Campground in Delaware, NJ.**

**Directions:**

**From Pennsylvania**—Take Rt. 80 East to NJ.  
Exit 4B and East on Rt.46.  
3 miles on right.

**From George Washington Bridge**—Take Rt. 80  
West to Exit 4 and East on Rt. 46.  
3 miles on right.

**From Central/South New Jersey**—Take Parkway North  
to 287N to 78W to 31N to 46W.  
8 miles on left—OR—Take Parkway North to 287N to  
206N to 80W to Exit 4. Go East on Rt. 46.  
3 miles on right.



**Costs Are Per Person**

Name:
Address:
Town / State:
Zip:

No Motorcycles  
Pets are \$1.00 per day

Early registration is appreciated

	Cost	# of People	Amount	Make checks payable to:
MAR registration (under 17 free)	\$5.00		\$	Central New Jersey Grotto
Adult camping per night	\$10.00		\$	
Child camping per night (under 17)	\$3.00		\$	Mail to:
Guidebook	\$3.00		\$	Brant Johnson
Saturday night dinner	\$5.00		\$	878 Pursel Street
		<b>Total Cost</b>	\$	Alpha, NJ. 08865

# Caves of the MAR 2002 Calendar

*Available only through the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy*

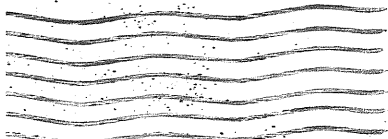
- Cost is \$10.00 per calendar
- Calendar is 8 1/2" X 11" and features caves of the MAR
- Calendars must be ordered by September 16, 2001
- Complete the order form and return with payment to:

George Bange, PCC Treasurer  
RR 2 Box 360  
Mt Pleasant Mills, PA 17853

## **Order Form:**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Grotto: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Quantity Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy**



MAR Breakdown  
RR 2 Box 360  
Mt Pleasant Mills, PA 17853

**Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins**  
NSS Member Price List

1-4	REPRINT VOLUME: Constitution and Caves of Shippensburg	7.00+ postage A
8	REPRINT Caves of Blair Co., PA	OUT OF PRINT
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	OUT OF PRINT
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA 20 caves, 14 maps	5.00 + postage A
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA 71 caves, 56 maps/1 large map	10.00+ postage B
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA 47 caves, 31 maps/5 large maps	10.00+ postage B
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA 13 caves, 6 maps	5.00+ postage A
14	Caves of Bucks Co., PA	OUT OF PRINT
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA 25 caves, 13 maps	5.00+ postage A
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA 24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map	6.00+ postage A
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA 20 caves, 10 maps	5.00+ postage A
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA 64 caves, 32 maps	10.00+ postage B
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA 54 caves, 33 maps	7.00+ postage A
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA 337 caves, 187 maps/10 large maps	29.50+3.00 each postage ♦

U.S. Postage Handling:

- A \$1.80 each copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address
- B \$2.00 postage each bulletin; \$0.50 each additional to same address
- ♦\$3.00 postage each bulletin #20

**MAR Bulletin Orders: Please make checks payable to MAR**  
**Order from: Bette White, RR 1 Box 527, Petersburg, PA 16669-9211**